

REMARKS

Applicant hereby files this request for continuing examination of the above-referenced application and has amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's Office Action dated March 30, 2004.

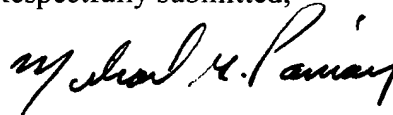
In the claims, claim 1 has been amended in order to include the limitation of originally filed dependent claim 5, which claim was indicated as allowable if placed in independent form. Thus, claim 1 is in allowable condition. Similarly, Applicant has amended claim 14 to remove the term "graded" as the Examiner also objected to this claim stating that this term made the claim indefinite. Thus, claims 14-19 dependent thereon are also in allowable condition. New claims 20-31 have been added in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention over the prior art of record.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the claims were allowable in that they recited the limitation "wherein the initial paramagnetic layer comprises a Cobalt alloy having a thickness of about 0.9 Å", which is neither taught nor rendered obvious by the prior art of record. However, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art shows layers which are greater than 1.5 Å. See Tang, et al. U.S. Pat. No. 5,750,270 at Col. 4, line 51. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 26 and 27 which state that the "initial paramagnetic layer comprises a Cobalt alloy having a thickness of less than 1.5 Å" is not shown, nor made obvious by the prior art of record. The prior art teaches away from such an invention. Additionally, new claims 27 and 31 recite that "there is no magnetic coupling between the neighboring grains of the Cobalt layers of the initial paramagnetic material layer." This is neither shown nor suggested by the prior art of record.

Thus, a favorable Office Action allowing the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the event that the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would be of value in expediting allowance and issuance of this application, he is invited to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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